

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00

ACDA-19 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07

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SP-03 SS-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /147 W

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O R 181731Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 043

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

47*# 7/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 147

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION GENEVA
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USUN NEW YORK 512
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3030

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PO
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

REF: LISBON 1949, LISBON 1950

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SPINOLA SWORE IN NEW PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET TODAY. BROAD POLITICAL COALITION MAINTAINED IN NEW GOVERNMENT, IN WHICH MILITARY PRESENCE MOST OUTSTANDING FEATURE (8 OF 17 MINISTERS ARE MILITARY). POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT WILL ONLY BECOME CLEAR AS IT TAKES DECISIONS ON SUCH KEY MATTERS AS THE OVERSEAS, LABOR, ECONOMY, LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, THE MEDIA. WHILE CERTAIN KEY MILITARY CABINET MEMBERS ARE CONSIDERED "LIBERAL" TO "LEFTIST," THIS FACT BALANCED TO A DEGREE BY DEPARTURE OF CIVILIAN LEFTISTS. NEW GOP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PURSUE WITH GREATER VIGOR MFA PROGRAM WITH RESPECT DEMOCRATIZATION OF PORTUGUESE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIFE AND TO THAT EXTENT WILL APPEAR "LEFTIST" TO ENTRENCHED INTERESTS OF SALAZAR-CAETANO ERA. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT SIGNIFICANT U.S. INTERESTS ARE IN ANY PERIL.

1. ON JULY 17, FOUR DAYS AFTER HIS SELECTION AS PRIME MINISTER, AND AFTER A NUMBER OF DELAYS ENCOUNTERED IN NAMING FOR LABOR AND EDUCATION JOBS PERSONS WHO ACCEPTABLE TO MFA, PRESIDENT, AND POLITICAL PARTIES, COL. VASCO GONCALVES PRESENTED CABINET LIST TO PRESIDENT SPINOLA. PRESIDENT THEN ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH SWORN IN JULY 18 AT 1100 LOCAL TIME.

2. NEW GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF 17 MINISTERS, EIGHT OF WHOM MILITARY, AND FOUR OF WHOM REPRESENTED ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (MFA) ON COUNCIL OF STATE. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNDER PREVAILING CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNCIL RULES MFA WILL NOW CHOOSE REPLACEMENTS FOR NEW MINISTERS, WHO INELIGIBLE TO CONTINUE SERVING ON COUNCIL WHILE IN CABINET.) MILITARY HOLD KEY JOB OF PRIME MINISTER, DEFENSE, LABOR, SOCIAL COMMUNICATION (CONTROL OF MEDIA) AND INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION. INCREASE OF MILITARY FROM ONE (DEFENSE) IN FIRST GOVERNMENT TO 8 IN SECOND CLEAR SIGN THAT MILITARY, AND SPECIFICALLY MFA, HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING ADHERENCE TO ITS PROGRAM. VARIOUS MFA LEADERS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WANT NO MORE IN-

HOUSE SQUABBLES AND THAT THEY INTEND TO ENSURE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS THE LAST BEFORE MARCH 1975 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

3. PREVIOUS COLATION OF PPD, COMMUNISTS, AND SOCIALISTS HAS BEEN MAINTAINED IN NEW GOVERNMENT. MARIO SOARES (SOCIALIST) REMAINS AS FOREIGN MINISTER, AND ALVARO CUNHAL (COMMUNIST) AS MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. MAGALHAES MOTA (PPD) MOVES FROM INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION TO MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. EACH PARTY LOST ONE MINISTER: COMMUNISTS LOST GONCALVES (LABOR), PPD LOST MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO SA CARNEIRO, AND SOCIALISTS LOST RAUL REGO (COMMUNICATIONS). WITH DISAPPEARANCE OF PEREIRA DE MOURA, DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP) NOT REPRESENTED IN NEW GOVERNMENT. OTHERS NOT RETURNING ARE PALMA CARLOS, VIEIRA DE ALMEIDA, EDUARDO CORREIA, MANUEL ROCHA, AND MARIO MURTEIRA.

4. SOCIALIST REPRESENTATION IN FACT INCREASED TO THREE MINISTERS, SINCE EDUCATION MINISTER (VICTORINO MAGALHAES GODINHO) IS SOCIALIST (THOUGH NOT YET FORMALLY MEMBER OF PSP). HOWEVER, COMMUNISTS, PPD, AND OTHER GROUPS MAY RECUPERATE THEIR LOSSES AT SECRETARY OF STATE LEVEL. (MAJOR VITOR ALVES TOLD PRESS THAT DISAPPEARANCE OF AN MDP REP. SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE SINCE MOVEMENTS' EXCLUSION NOT "DELIBERATE" WITH MAJOR ATTENTION GIVEN TO "CHOOSING RIGHT PEOPLE.")

5. A NUMBER OF MILITARY ARE KNOWN OR BELIEVED TO BE INTELLECTUAL SOCIALISTS (MAJOR ANTUNES, PERHAPS PRIME MINISTER AND MAJOR VITOR ALVES). THEY TOGETHER WITH LEFTIST PARTY REPS GIVE CABINET MORE LEFTIST TILT THAN ITS PREDECESSOR. CABINET'S LEFTWARD TILT SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE OVEREMPHASIZED. COMMUNISTS AGREED ONLY AFTER STRUGGLE TO STAY IN CABINET WITHOUT LABOR PORTOFOLIO. DEPARTURE OF PEREIRA DA MOURA, CONSIDERED COMMUNIST IN MDG CLOTHING, HAS TO BE CONSIDERED NET LOSS FOR LEFT. NEW
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MINISTER OF INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION HAS PRONOUNCED HIMSELF AS FAVORING ELECTIONS SOON FOR MUNICIPAL AND PARISH COUNCILS, WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF GIVING OTHER PARTIES CHANCE TO UNSEAT LOCAL BODIES INSTALLED BY ACCLAMATION IN MANY LOCALITIES BY COMMUNIST-DOMINATED MDP. KEY ECONOMIC AND FINANCE MINISTRIES HAVE GONE TO CENTRISTS. DAY CABINET TOOK OFFICE, FORMER CAETANO MINISTER OF EDUCATION BEIGA SIMAO, WHOSE APPOINTMENT AS PERMREP TO UN PUBLICLY OPPOSED BY BOTH PSP AND, ESPECIALLY, PCP, DEPARTED TO TAKE UP HIS POST IN NEW YORK. THESE MOVES OPPOSED BY LEFT ARE INDICATIONS EITHER THAT PRIME MINISTER NOT AS DOCTRINAIRELY LEFTIST AS PAINTED BY SOME OR THAT SPINOLA RETAINS CONSIDERABLE POWER TO INFLUENCE EVENTS, OR BOTH. IN ANY EVENT, THEY ARE ONLY AVAILABLE CONCRETE CLUES TO NEW REGIME'S ORIENTATION AND SUGGEST THAT FACTORS ARE IN PLAY TO KEEP PORTUGAL ON RELATIVELY EVEN KEEL.

6. BASIC FACTOR IN ISTUATION, IN OUR VIEW, IS THAT MFA, HAVING SINCE APRIL 25 ENJOYED POWER WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY, HAS NOW CHOSEN OR BEEN FORCED BY EVENTS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL. WE FEEL THAT THEY WILL PURSUE WITH VIGOR THE MFA PROGRAM (OUTLINED LISBON 1950), PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS INSTALLING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, AND RECTIFYING SOCIAL IMBALANCES OF PAST. THOSE WHO BENEFITTED FROM AND WERE PROTECTED BY PREVIOUS SYSTEM WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE GROUNDS, FROM THEIR VIEWPOINT, FOR VIEWING AS "LEFTIST" A REGIME WHICH CARRIES OUT SUCH MFA PROGRAM PROMISES AS ADOPTION OF "ANTI-MONOPOLIST STRATEGY." HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE NEW REGIME'S "STRICT CONSTRUCTIONIST" DEDICATION TO MFA PROGRAM WILL ALSO APPLY TO PROVISIONS CALLING FOR RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND WE THEREFORE FEEL THERE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IMPORTANT U.S. INTERESTS WILL NOT SUFFER UNDER SPINOLA/GONCALVES REGIME.
SCOTT

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